

Monomoy

National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
Rep. William D. Delahunt (D-10th)

Contact

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Purpose

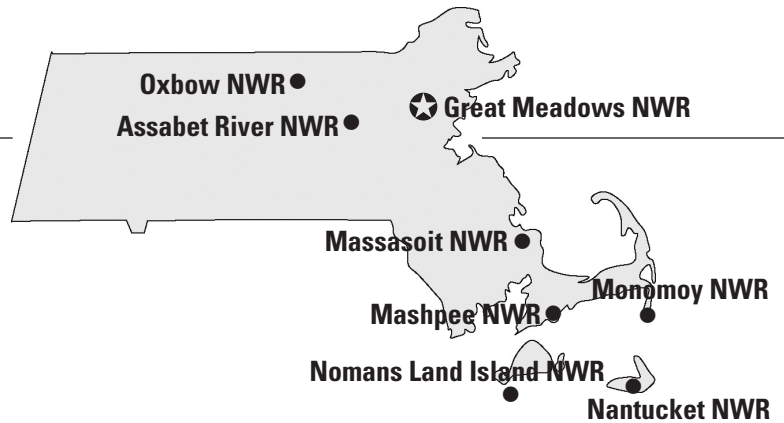
Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge was established for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.

Public Use Notes

- Wildlife tours
- Recreational shell fishing
- Wildlife observation and photography
- Natural resource educational and interpretive programs

Management Activities

- Perpetuate the migratory bird resource
- Preserve the natural diversity and abundance of flora and fauna on refuge lands



Highlights

Approximately 94 percent of the refuge is designated as a wilderness area, and is predominantly barrier beach islands of sand dunes, freshwater ponds, and salt and freshwater marshes.

The refuge is used by piping plovers and roseate terns, both federally listed species.

The federally endangered northeastern beach tiger beetle was reintroduced on the refuge in 2000.

The refuge is the largest haul-out site for gray seals on the Atlantic seaboard.

Monomoy has been designated as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Regional Site.

During fall and winter, thousands of eiders, scoters, red-breasted mergansers and brant congregate in offshore areas.

A restored U.S. Coast Guard light-house, located on South Monomoy Island, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Issues

The Avian Diversity Project, which began in 1996 with the removal of gulls, has resulted in an increase of common tern nests from 231 in 1995 to 8,717 in 2003.

Animal rights activists continue to oppose the refuge's use of lethal predator control.

The refuge completed a compatibility determination in 2002 that found horseshoe crab harvesting to be not compatible.

Commercial shellfishing occurs on the refuge in apparent violation of the Wilderness Act.

Ferry service to the islands operated under special use permits is controversial due to the limit on the number of ferry operators allowed and because ferry customers generate considerable traffic at refuge headquarters.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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